



NEWS RELEASE

NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL
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AMBER ALERT AWARENESS DAY

Governor John Hoeven has proclaimed Friday, January 13, AMBER ALERT AWARENESS DAY in North Dakota. AMBER Alert programs have been implemented in all 50 states. North Dakota implemented the state's plan in February 2003.

"Three years ago we implemented this statewide alert system to protect our young people and keep our communities safe," Hoeven said. "That commitment continues today as new information features are added to the system so that we are better prepared as a state to support local and tribal government in the event of a child abduction."

The AMBER Alert provides public notification of an abducted child 17 years of age or younger, and that the abduction is believed to have been committed by a stranger or family abduction in which the child is believed to be in grave danger of serious bodily harm or death. Descriptive information about the child, abductor, and vehicle description is obtained by law enforcement and broadcast through the AMBER Alert. This information is used to assist in the safe recovery of the victim and apprehension of the suspect. Two AMBER Alerts have been issued in North Dakota -- the first in March 2004, and the second in October 2005. In both cases, the child or children were located.

AMBER Alert information is broadcast via television, radio, and Department of Transportation message boards. Citizens can also receive the information by dialing 511 from any phone. Cellular phone users may now receive a text message of AMBER Alerts, free of charge, activated in the subscriber's area by simply signing up for the service at www.wirelessfoundation.org. The North Dakota AMBER Alert Web Site, www.nd.gov/amber, is another way citizens can obtain information on AMBER Alerts and valuable links to other AMBER Alert related stories.

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The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children has developed a secondary distribution network to disseminate AMBER Alerts after receiving notification of state or regional AMBER Alert activations. The secondary distribution network includes several Internet service providers, the wireless industry, and many others.

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